

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

A NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF EVANSVILLE STATE HOSPITAL

UNIT REORGANIZATION

The Patient Organization Planning Committee was formed to develop a plan for unit restructuring after the reduction in beds for clients with developmental disabilities occurred. This reduction led to the February 23 decertification of our Medicaid status as an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) provider. The POP Committee is represented by a variety of disciplines including nursing, rehabilitation therapy, social work, medical staff, psychology, and administration. Informal meetings were held to gather input from all staff regarding what has worked well in the past and what should or could be done differently. From these ideas and feedback, a realignment of units was proposed and has been implemented gradually over the past 30 days with some more significant maneuvering and transferring of patients in the past two weeks. The reorganization also affected staffing with changes occurring simultaneously at the end of February. Individual unit preferences were considered to provide the best coverage for the new patient populations. With the transitioning, there have been challenges that resulted in opportunities to problem solve and utilize a whole hospital team approach. All treatment teams and support staff are commended for their hard work and cooperation.

The five units are now referenced by the building section number and letter. This decision is based on feedback from employees who have encountered difficulties with deciphering overhead pages as the lettered units can be difficult to distinguish. Units 400-C & 500-D will continue to be co-ed admission and continuing treatment units. The new 22 bed male unit, Unit 600-E, materialized from the discussion of gender specific units which had been the practice before the move to the current building. Unit 700-F has an increased capacity of 42 beds and will serve our aging population, those with more complex medical conditions, and those who may be treatment resistive. Individuals served on Unit 800-G are those progressing towards release planning or consistently following their established treatment plans. This unit is expected to reach a capacity of 32 beds with pending admissions from internal transfers by the end of March. Programming and unit protocols are being revisited based on the new populations.

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

Angela Boren, Nursing Service
Stephanie Shrubbs, Nursing Service
Tara Wilkins, Rehabilitation Therapy



GOODBYE

Rich Allen, Staff Development
Amy Johnson, Nursing Service
Amanda Swetenam, Nursing Service

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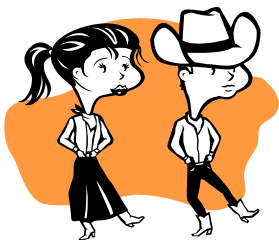
PATIENT HIGHLIGHTS

CHAPTER CHALLENGE

Have you ever participated in a book discussion at the local library? Chapter Challenge is Evansville State Hospital's version of a book club. The program started last year and has been a hit with residents, given the full house in the library on a regular basis. Chapter Challenge addresses a number of client needs and treatment goals, while promoting reading as a daily activity. There is a great deal of benefit for those at the basic level or with some literacy difficulties to improve on their reading skills which leads to a more functional life. But even for clients with reading experience, skills are enhanced to the point that reading becomes a source of pleasure, giving clients a productive outlet for coping with stressors in their lives. Additionally, benefits go beyond reading skills as clients' social skills are improved by opportunities to discuss the reading material. The group discussions involve participants presenting their point of view, listening to others, and learning how to disagree without conflict. These are all necessary skills for developing healthy relationships and interacting with others.



Kelly Kissel, Rehabilitation Therapist Aide on the Treatment Mall, has implemented some creative elements that make this group unique. To evoke an authentic book club, Kelly has worked with the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library checking out multiples of books so each patient has their own to use during the class. Several patients "were in awe" due to having the same book in their hands. The patients mark their place at the end of each class and demonstrate respect for the loaned books. Kelly educates the group about the author's background, other books written, best sellers, and achievement awards. This review familiarizes the clients with authors so they can recognize authors they enjoy when later choosing their own materials. Kelly has surprised the group with the viewing of a popular movie version which has taken the club to another dimension by discussing the differences between the book and the movie. Particular book themes have spurred on more fun such as participants being treated to cotton candy after reading about a carnival. As the program has progressed inspirational moments have occurred, such as patients taking the initiative to expand their vocabulary by looking up the meanings of new or difficult words. And watching clients engaged in problem solving while discussing reference materials. The Chapter Challenge program has proven to be a challenge and so much more!

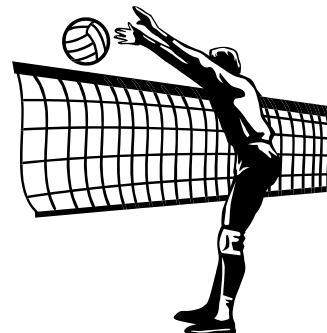


Y'ALL COME NOW!

Volunteers and retirees are invited to a recognition event on Friday, April 15 in honor of their years of service at Evansville State Hospital. The celebration will include a historic display, scrapbook pictures, guest speakers, and a bit of country fun. Invitations are included in this newsletter mailing. Please R.S.V.P. By April 1 if interested in attending. We hope that you can join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Family Mixer
Country Hoedown
Saturday, April 16
10:30 am—1:00 pm
Gym



Volleyball Game
Patients & Staff
Friday, April 29
Gym

VOLUNTEERS GIVE 1,173 SERVICE HOURS IN 2010

174 individual and group volunteers logged in 1,173 hours of service in the past calendar year. Our volunteers assist with worship services, shop for our residents, provide social parties, assist with weekly craft and hobby programs, assist with the care of our grounds, help at special events, assist with office tasks, serve on human rights committees, and help out during Christmas.

56 volunteers are patient sponsors in the Friend to Friend Program, visiting with their friends on a monthly basis. With the increased male population, we're in need of male sponsors to befriend our residents. Patients who would benefit from visitation and social opportunities are referred for the program by the treatment team. An individual (or civic group) is matched with a patient and shares information about themselves as they would to any friend, telling about their family, work, hobbies, or other interests. Sponsors are encouraged to have monthly contact through visitation, or sending letters and cards. The hospital hosts a social party each month (2nd Thursday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.) at which time community sponsors visit their friend. A group activity is planned and light refreshments are served. This gives both community sponsors and friends a shared experience of fellowship. For sponsors unable to attend the 2:00 p.m. social parties, it is recommended that they visit their friend during regular hospital visitation hours (1-4 pm and 6-8 pm weekends; 3-4 pm and 6-8 pm weekdays). Your friend to friend experience will depend on your friend's needs and your own interests, time, and capabilities. All Friend to Friend community sponsors are oriented to the program, as well as to the hospital. A criminal history check is conducted on the potential volunteer prior to the volunteer assignment. If interested, please contact Theresa in Community Services at 812-469-6800, ext. 4970.



**Volunteer
Services**

WELCOME

Becky Hill
Rebecca Isley
Lindsey Miller
Brian Newell
UE Mortano Hall Council Members
USI Stellar Club Members

HOOSIERS HELPING HOOSIERS

A total of 472 food items were donated by ESH employees during the February food drive for Grace Baptist Church Food Pantry. The weekly collection goals helped to generate a nice variety of staple products—cereals, pasta, and canned soups, vegetables, and fruits. Larry Palmer, pantry director, was extremely grateful for the boost as “first time families using our pantry have increased over the past four years with over 1,400 first time families served in 2010.” About 442 families utilize the pantry each month, with around 73 of these being families of 5 or more. The busiest times at the pantry are at the end of the month when money is running low for families. Families receive two meats such as hot dogs and ground turkey, and a grocery sack of canned vegetables and fruit, soups, pasta dinners, peanut butter, snack crackers/cookies, and bread. At times, dairy products such as eggs, cheese, and milk are also available. Recently several of their storage refrigerators and freezers have been bare given the increased need. The pantry utilizes the Tri State Food Bank for the bulk of their food items. Church volunteers run the pantry and have helped to secure business donations and initiate yard sales in a pinch. Volunteers meet on Wednesday evenings to prepare sacks of groceries and process the food. A conveyer system efficiently unloads the food, saving hours of physical labor. A photo ID and social security cards of household members are required of those using the pantry. Information on other community resources and outreach services are distributed as well as bibles to those who are interested. A clothing bank is also open during the week. The pantry and clothing bank are located at 1200 N Gavin Street. Pantry hours are 10:30 am—2:00 pm on Mondays and Thursdays.



COMMUNITY CONNECTION is published every other month for friends of Evansville State Hospital. News items are welcome and should be submitted to the Community Services Office.

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.IN.GOV

CANTEEN UNDERGOES REMODELING

Since the move in 2003, the hospital has talked of transforming the canteen into a wonderful patient dining experience with the offerings of a menu that would vary from popcorn to Panini grilled sandwiches, french fries, and onion rings. This long-range plan is now coming to a reality.

Work began in the canteen in February with the removal of the counter and bar area. An extended counter and island for food orders will replace it. The remodeled canteen will feature a new grill, deep fryer, popcorn machine, slushy machine, and full kitchen complete with sink, garbage disposal, refrigerator, and freezer. A new juke box with a multitude of functions that include electronic, downloadable options will provide a pleasing atmosphere inside the canteen as well as outside on the patio through the speaker system.



Contractors install the extended counter in the hospital canteen.

The patients now enjoy snack items from vending machines so the hot foods will be a nice addition. Many times, our patients enjoy going off campus for a meal at local restaurants; however, not all are able to take advantage of this opportunity. The new canteen will allow for all residents to take part in a dining experience where social and communication skills can continue to be practiced and addressed. The remodeling project is expected to run through the end of March. Patient use of this new experience will be determined by the privilege system to be developed.